

provisional ballot until the elector provides sufficient information, pursuant to rules adopted by the secretary of state. If the elector is notified by mail, the election administrator shall provide a self-addressed return envelope along with a description of the information necessary for the absentee elector to reclassify the provisional ballot as a regular ballot.

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(5) If the signature on the absentee ballot return envelope does not match the signature on the absentee ballot request form, the election administrator shall notify the elector, either by first-class mail or the most expedient method available under rules adopted by the secretary of state, and inform the elector that the elector may verify the signature, after proof of identification, by mail or in person at the election administrator's office prior to 8 p.m. on election day.

(6) The elector may verify the signature by affirming that the signature is in fact the elector's or by completing a new registration card containing the elector's current signature or by filing a new agent designation form.

(7) If an elector notified pursuant to subsection (5) fails to verify the signature before 8 p.m. on election day, the ballot must be handled as a provisional ballot under 13-15-107.

(8) (1) After receiving an absentee ballot secrecy envelope, ~~without opening the secrecy envelope~~ but not sooner than 3 1 business days before election day, the election judges shall ~~may~~, at the discretion of the election administrator on election day open the secrecy envelope and place the secrecy envelope ballot in the proper, secured ballot box until tabulation occurs on election day."

(2) the secretary of state shall develop administrative rules establishing the process and procedure to be used during the early preparation of ballots to ensure the security of the ballots and the secrecy of votes during the early preparation period, including but not limited to, the allowable distance of the observers to the judges and ballots, security in the observation area, secrecy of votes during the preparation of ballots, and security of secured ballot box(es) in storage until tabulation procedures begin on election day.

- END -

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